

**From:** Matthew Stokes  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Antitrust Settlement Comments

For years now computer buyers and sellers have had to deal with Microsoft. Buyers were saddled with Windows whenever they purchased a new system regardless to whether or not they really wanted the operating system. Further more the product itself was generally shipped with known flaws which Microsoft took it's own time to finally get around to fixing often times requiring upgrades to newer versions of their code which the consumer then had to pay for.

It is time that the monopolistic practices of this behemoth be stopped. I applaude the court system for finding Microsoft in violation of the law. Unfortunately though, it seems that the penalty does not fit the crime. Allowing Microsoft to be kept in tact and furthermore to force feed schools with more of it's operating system and software does little to curtail what it is already doing. It amounts to a slap on the wrist and the government looking the other way while Microsoft goes merilly on it's way continuing to violate the law. Other than breaking up Microsoft, the only other solution that may help is the recent response from RedHat to provide the OS and support for the systems that Microsoft would purchase for the schools. This would impose a monetary penalty on Microsoft having to foot the bill for the computers while stopping it's continued in roads into the schools.

Do something about this problem and don't just look the other way. We need this practice to stop and a true penalty to be imposed not just a wink of the eye after a mild scolding...

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